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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,158	05/03/2001	Edwin K. Runyon	74953/11664	7426
7590	12/30/2003			EXAMINER SWARTHOUT, BRENT
Elsa Keller, Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 170 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			ART UNIT 2636	PAPER NUMBER 11
DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/848,158	RUNYON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brent A Swarthout	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Art Unit: 2636

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

i. Claims 1-3,7-11,13-14,28-30,34-38 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al. (WO 17984) in view of Conkright et al.

Claims are rejected for the same reasons as set forth in paragraph No. 1 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03. Furthermore, Woolard discloses desirability of taking action responsive to information (page 15, lines 2-8).

Also, Woolard teaches desirability of allowing control of a facility without necessarily being on-site, which implies that control can also be performed on-site as well as at a remote location (page 9, lines 5-7). Since Woolard also teaches desirability of integrating existing facility control systems into the remotely controlled system, such would have permitted control and monitoring at each facility location, since such are conventional functions of a facility control system.

2. Claims 19-25, 4, 5, 31-32, and 43-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al. in view of Conkright et al. and Townsend (WO 1/22177).

Claims are rejected for the same reasons as set forth previously in Paragraph No. 2 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03.

3. Claims 6, 12, 33 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al. in view of Conkright et al. and Steen et al. (WO 62136).

Claims are rejected for the same reasons as set forth previously in Paragraph No. 3 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03.

4. Claims 15-17 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al. in view of Conkright et al. and Runyon et al. (642).

Claims are rejected for the reasons set forth previously in Paragraph No. 4 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al in view of Conkright et al. and Norman et al. (340).

Claim 18 is rejected for the reasons set forth previously in Paragraph No. 5 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03.

6. Claims 26,27 and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woolard et al. in view of Conkright et al., Townsend and Moore.

Claims are rejected for the same reasons as set forth previously in paragraph No. 6 of the Office action mailed 3-28-03.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent A Swarthout whose telephone number is 703-305-4383. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass, can be reached on 703-305-4717. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.


Brent A Swarthout
Examiner
Art Unit 2636

BRENT A. SWARTHOUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER